2026 Maui County Fair
Student Horticulture Contest

Celebrating Keiki Growing Their Own Food
October 1–4, 2026
Queen Kaʻahumanu Center

About the Contest

The Maui County Fair Student Horticulture Contest is a celebration of keiki who grow their own food! Students in grades K–12 are encouraged to bring something they have grown at home, at school, or in a community garden. Entries may include fruits, vegetables, roots, herbs, or flowers.

Important Note for 2026:
Because the **War Memorial Gym is under construction** (the traditional home of the Horticulture Exhibit) and space is limited at the Queen Kaʻahumanu Center, we are **not holding adult horticulture divisions this year**. Instead, we are focusing exclusively on our keiki entries. This ensures that young growers still have a special showcase, and adult divisions will return when space allows in future years.

This contest is about more than ribbons — it is about recognizing effort, pride, and aloha ʻāina in caring for the land and growing food.

Categories

- Fruits – papaya, banana, mango, guava, citrus, etc.
- Vegetables – tomato, pumpkin, lettuce, cucumber, beans, etc.
- Roots & Tubers – kalo, ʻuala (sweet potato), carrots, radish, etc.
- Herbs & Spices – basil, mint, parsley, rosemary, etc.
- Flowers & Edible Blooms – sunflowers, hibiscus, orchids, marigolds, lei, etc.

Special Awards:

- Biggest & Heaviest
- Most Unusual or Unique
- Best Sustainable Garden Story (optional — student may include a short note or photo about how they cared for their plant)

How to Enter

- **Drop-Off Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2026
- **Drop-Off Time:** 2:30 – 6:30 pm
- **Drop-Off Location:** Queen Kaʻahumanu Center (Fair Mall Exhibit Space – exact location to be announced on themauifair.com)

What to Bring:

- Your entry (in a small box, basket, or bag for easy transport)
- Completed Student Entry Form (attached to entry)
- Teachers bringing multiple entries should also provide the School Submission Inventory Sheet in addition to the Entry Forms

Pick-Up:
Sunday, October 4, 2026, between 2:00-5:00 pm at Queen Kaʻahumanu Center.

Any entries not picked up by 5:00 PM on Sunday will be disposed of.

Judging Criteria

Judges will look for:

- Health & Quality – clean, healthy specimen
- Effort – clearly cared for and grown by the student
- Presentation – neat and attractive display
- Aloha ʻĀina – respect and care for the land through growing food

---

Awards

- Best in Show – Elementary, Middle, and High School divisions
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Ribbons in each category
- Honorable Mentions at the judges' discretion

Contact Information

Student Horticulture Contest Chair - Merrill Ranken - merrill.ranken@gmail.com

2026 Maui County Fair Student Horticulture Entry Form

(Please submit a separate entry form for each plant you are entering.)

Student Full Name: _____ Grade: _____

School: _____ Teacher Name: _____

Category (check one):
Fruits ☐ | Vegetables ☐ | Roots ☐ | Herbs ☐ | Flowers ☐

Crop/Plant Name: _____
***Optional — student may include a short note or photo about how they cared for their plant

---

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Waiver & Release

I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the student listed above. I grant permission for my child to participate in the Maui County Fair Student Horticulture Contest. I understand and agree:

- The submitted item will be displayed as part of the Fair.
- The entry may be photographed or shared in Fair promotions.
- No compensation or royalties will be given for display or promotional use.
- While entries will be handled with care, the Maui County Fair is not responsible for loss or damage.
- My child's first name, grade, school, and entry may be displayed publicly.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Reminders:

- **Drop-Off Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2026 | 2:30 – 6:30 pm
- **Drop-Off Location:** Queen Kaʻahumanu Center (exact location TBA)
- **Pick-Up Date:** Sunday, October 4, 2026, 2:00-5:00 pm at Queen Kaʻahumanu Center. Any entries not picked up by 5:00 PM on Sunday will be composted

School Submission Inventory

School Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

Phone #: _____ **Email:** _____

List of Student Entries

#	Student Name	Grade	Category	Crop/Plant Name
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				